

DESPERATELY CLINGING TO JESUS

Psalm 61

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INTRODUCTION: WHAT DESPERATE PEOPLE DO

Nobody really likes being desperate.

Despair

the complete loss or absence of hope

? How do you respond to desperation?

In Psalm 61, David's prescription for desperate people is to cling to the God of salvation and to cling to the salvation that only comes through Christ.

Proposition: God is a savior so that desperate people can rest in Jesus Christ and His salvation.

I. DESPERATION

A. GODLY DESPERATION LEADS TO PRAYER, VV. 1,2

You cannot pray properly except from a point of desperation.

Psalm 42:11

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Godly desperation is desperate dependence.

Psalms 73:25, 26

Whom have I in heaven *but You?*

And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Point Desperation leads to prayer.

B. GODLY DESPERATION HOPES IN GOD'S SALVATION,

V. 3 & 5

David turns to God in the hope of salvation. The words David uses

here are euphemisms for salvation.

1. Rock, v. 3

Not stone, but cliff. Dwelling securely.

2. Refuge, v. 3

Not fighting but hiding from danger.

Colossians 3:3

For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

3. Tower, v. 3

4. Saved From Sin, v. 5

a. VOWS

i. a sacrificial offering

Leviticus 17:6

ii. to be set apart for special service (Nazarite)

Numbers 6:2

iii. salvation

b. fear

Deuteronomy 6:4, 5

Psalm 85:9, 10

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Jonah 1:10-17; Psalm 76 (esp. v. 11)

Point: When godly people despair, they remember and rest in their salvation.

Jonah 2:7-9

C. GODLY DESPERATION LEADS TO COMMITMENT, V. 4

The desperate man commits to continually resting in God.

1. I Will Continue In Your Salvation

2. I Will Take Refuge

II. SALVATION

A. SALVATION LEADS TO CHRIST-CENTERED PRAYING, V. 6

B. SALVATION HOPES IN CHRIST, V. 7

1. Lovingkindness

2. Truth

C. SALVATION LEADS TO FAITHFUL DEVOTION, V. 8

1. Singing Of Praises

2. Performing Of Vows

CONCLUSION: GODLY DESPAIR

? How do you react in times of despair?

Godly despair leads to the godly one resting in salvation, continuing to sing, and living out his vows.

Anything you hope to become in Jesus as a Christian begins with and continues with godly desperation.

You can do no part of the Christian life properly unless it comes from a point of despair and dependence on God. It is impossible. Conversion, prayer, sanctification.

APPLICATION:

? What causes you to despair?

? Do you rest in Christ, or do you try to control your situation ?